WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste comprising surface-modified nickel fine powder having an average particle size of not more than 5 μm, and in which the surface of metal nickel fine particles is modified with a phosphate compound, a phosphite compound or a hypophosphite compound.

2. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 1, wherein the phosphate, phosphite or hypophosphite compound is phosphoric acid, a phosphoric acid salt, a phosphoric acid ester, phosphorous acid, a phosphorous acid salt, a phosphorous acid ester, hypophosphorous acid, a hypophosphorous acid salt, a hypophosphorous acid ester, a phosphate residue-containing organometallic salt, a phosphite residue-containing organometallic salt, a hypophosphite residue-containing organometallic salt, a phosphate residue-containing coupling agent, a phosphite residue-containing coupling agent or a hypophosphite residue-containing coupling agent.

3. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 2, wherein the phosphate compound, the

phosphite compound or the hypophosphite compound is a phosphate residue-containing titanate coupling agent, a phosphite residue-containing titanate coupling agent or a hypophosphite residue-containing titanate coupling agent.

4. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the metal nickel fine particles is not more than 1 μm.

5. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 2, wherein the average particle size of the metal nickel fine particles is not more than 1 μm.

6. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 3, wherein the average particle size of the metal nickel fine particles is not more than 1 μm.

7. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 1, wherein the phosphate, phosphite or hypophosphite compound is adhered to the surface of the metal nickel fine particles in an amount ranging from 0.01 to 1% by weight as expressed in terms of the reduced amount of phosphorous atoms, on the basis of the total weight of the metal nickel.

8. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 2, wherein the phosphate, phosphite or hypophosphite compound is adhered to the surface of the metal nickel fine particles in an amount ranging from 0.01 to 1% by weight as expressed in terms of the reduced amount of phosphorous atoms, on the basis of the total weight of the metal nickel.

9. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 3, wherein the phosphate, phosphite or hypophosphite compound is adhered to the surface of the metal nickel fine particles in an amount ranging from 0.01 to 1% by weight as expressed in terms of the reduced amount of phosphorous atoms, on the basis of the total weight of the metal nickel.

10. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 4, wherein the phosphate, phosphite or hypophosphite compound is adhered to the surface of the metal nickel fine particles in an amount ranging from 0.01 to 1% by weight as expressed in terms of the reduced amount of phosphorous atoms, on the basis of the total weight of the metal nickel.

11. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 5, wherein the phosphate, phosphite or hypophosphite compound is adhered to the surface of the metal nickel fine particles in an amount ranging from 0.01 to 1% by weight as expressed in terms of the reduced amount of phosphorous atoms, on the basis of the total weight of the metal nickel.

12. The internal electrode of a multilayer ceramic capacitor prepared by using a conductive paste as set forth in claim 6, wherein the phosphate, phosphite or hypophosphite compound is adhered to the surface of the metal nickel fine particles in an amount ranging from 0.01 to 1% by weight as expressed in terms of the reduced amount of phosphorous atoms, on the basis of the total weight of the metal nickel.